In June of 2017, Pilcher Park became an Illinois Nature Preserve, which helps protect the high-quality forest. Pilcher Park is one of the remaining forests in the Chicago region and in the state of Illinois. Joliet Park District retains ownership of the park, but the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources oversee the protection and stewardship of its natural features. After retaining the Illinois Nature Preserve status, several rules and guidelines for park use have changed. A few of them are listed here: leashed dogs are welcome, stay on designated trails while hiking, no dumping of trash or yard waste, and no removal of plants, fungi, or animals from the park. For a complete list of rules, please visit jolietpark.org. Thank you for your cooperation in following the rules and keeping Pilcher Park's status maintained.
Overview of Pilcher Park Hiking Trails

- **Trail Colors & Symbols***:
  - Purple: Outer Loop: paved or limestone loop trail, long hike, hills
  - Yellow: Valley Road Loop: limestone loop trail, long hike, hills
  - Green: Bluff Trail: rustic loop trail, medium hike, hills
  - Red: Pilcher Interpretive Trail: paved trail between Greenhouse & Nature Center, long hike
  - Silver: Sensory Trail: paved trail, short hike
  - Brown: Trail of the Oaks: level rustic loop trail, medium hike
  - Pink: Hummingbird Lane: level rustic trail between Greenhouse & Nature Center, long hike
  - Blue: Hickory Creek Trail: rustic loop trail along Hickory Creek, short hike
  - Lavender: Wildflower Walk: level rustic loop trail starting & ending at Greenhouse, medium hike
  - Light Blue: Artesian Trail: level rustic trail between Flowing Well & Nature Center, long hike
  - Artesian Trail: limestone trail, medium hike

- **Trail Name & Description**:
  - Outer Loop: paved or limestone loop trail, long hike, hills
  - Valley Road Loop: limestone loop trail, long hike, hills
  - Bluff Trail: rustic loop trail, medium hike, hills
  - Pilcher Interpretive Trail: paved trail between Greenhouse & Nature Center, long hike
  - Sensory Trail: paved trail, short hike
  - Walk-in-the-Woods: level rustic loop trail, short hike
  - Trail of the Oaks: level rustic loop trail, medium hike
  - Hummingbird Lane: level rustic trail between Greenhouse & Nature Center, long hike
  - Hickory Creek Trail: rustic loop trail along Hickory Creek, short hike
  - Wildflower Walk: level rustic loop trail starting & ending at Greenhouse, medium hike
  - Artesian Trail: level rustic trail between Flowing Well & Nature Center, long hike
  - Artesian Trail: limestone trail, medium hike

*Symbols are painted the following colors on trail signs
**Loops start & end at Nature Center unless noted